

Gulf Coast Beach Mice

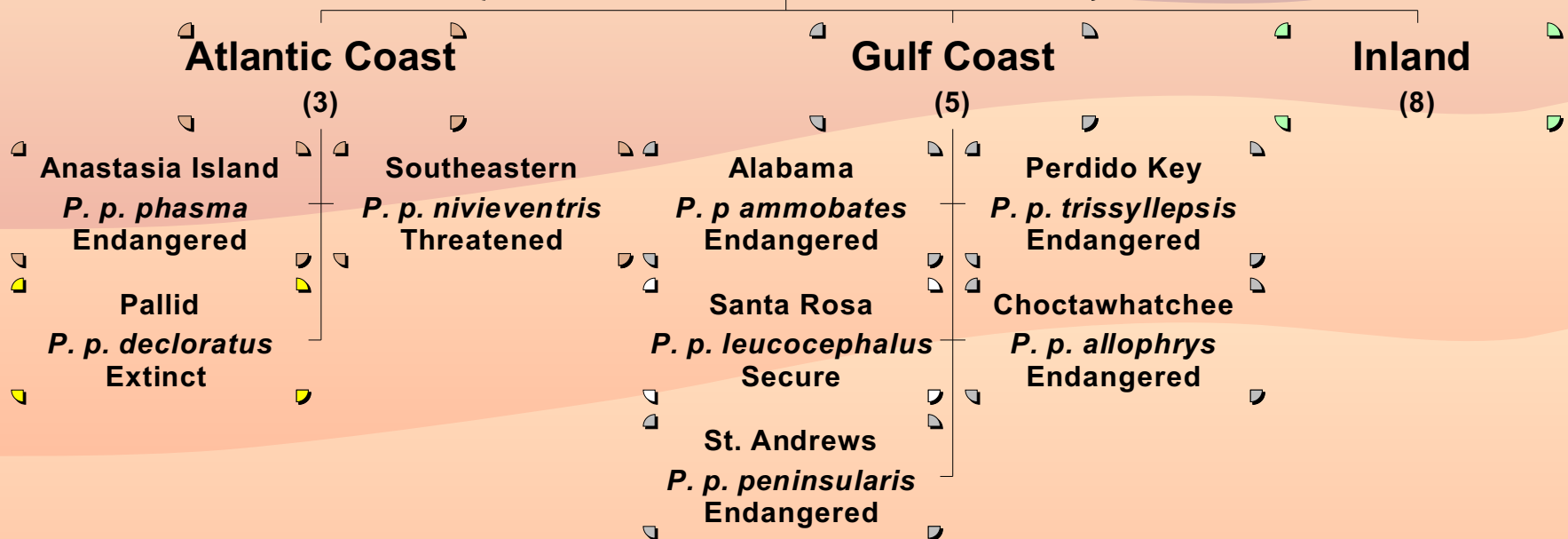
Ecology and Conservation



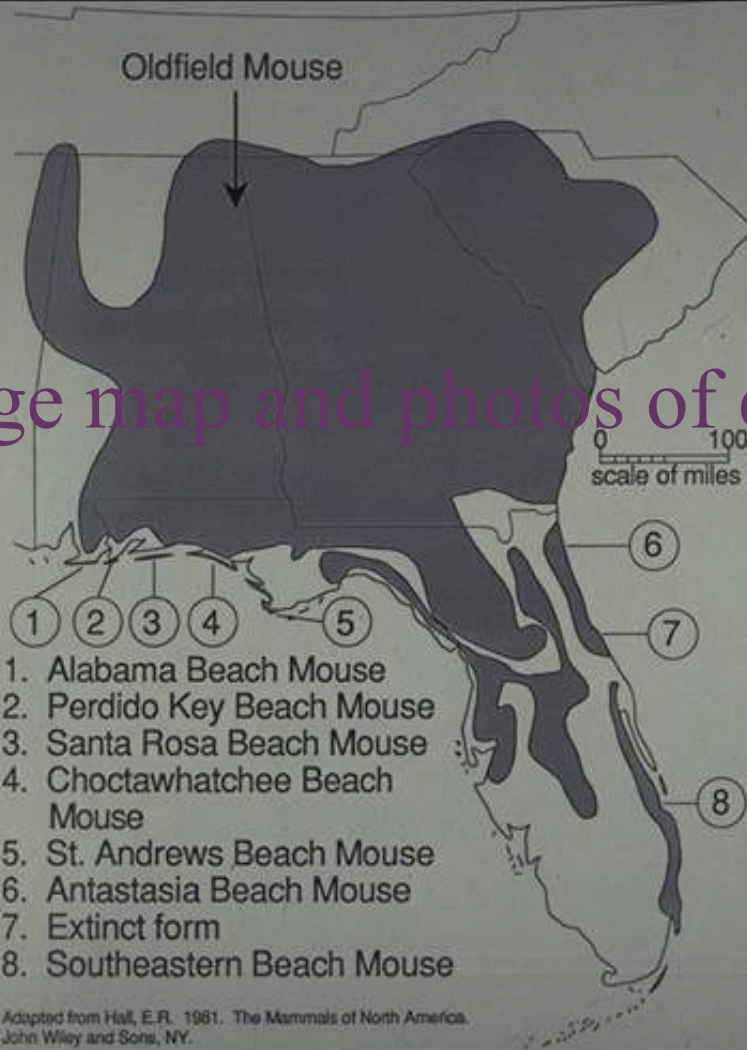


Oldfield Mouse

Peromyscus polionotus ssp.
(16)



Insert range map and photos of each mouse



General Description

- Light brown to grey
- Males and nonreproductive females weigh 12.5 g on average
- Large, protuberant eyes
- Large ears
- Tail unpigmented and same length as body



Primary Dunes

- High vegetation density
- Low plant diversity
- Highly unstable



Secondary Dunes

- Lower vegetation density
- High plant diversity
- More stable



Scrub Dunes and Escarpment

- Highly variable density
- High plant diversity
- Most stable



Plants important to
beach mice, include,
but are not limited
to...



Burrow Characteristics...

- Sideslope of dunes
- Associated w/ vegetation
- Drier areas
- Entrance tunnel
- Sand plug
- Nest chamber
- Escape tunnel



Notes on Reproduction

- Gestation: 23 days
- Post partum estrus
- Litter size: 4 pups
- Monogamous
- Both parents care for young



5 Reasons for Decline...

1) Habitat Loss and Degradation



5 Reasons for Decline (cont.)...

1) Habitat Loss and Degradation

2) Predation



Fire ants???

5 Reasons for Decline (cont.)...

- 1) Habitat Loss and Degradation
- 2) Predation
- 3) Competition



5 Reasons for Decline (cont.)...

- 1) Habitat Loss and Degradation
- 2) Predation
- 3) Competition
- 4) Loss of Genetic Diversity
- 5) Disease

Conservation Concerns

■ Biotic

- ▶ Habitat loss
- ▶ Predation
- ▶ Competition
- ▶ Genetic diversity
- ▶ Disease

■ Abiotic: This one's tough...

Abiotic Factors Potentially Impacting Beach Mice

- Light pollution
- Changes in soil compaction
- Changes in nutrient content of the beach/dunes
- Artificial changes in sand deposition patterns
- Dune Stabilization Techniques (Christmas trees and haybales)
- Fertilizing???
- Planting???

